

RESOLUTION NO. 14-516

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised of the 22nd Anniversary of Pastor and First Lady Dr. and Sister Joe Mac Bankhead of the Friendly Temple Church of God in Christ in Russellville, Alabama, on July 27, 2014. The Anniversary Celebration will begin with the morning service at 11:30 a.m. and will end with the evening service at 4:00 p.m. with Alabama First Church of God in Christ State Prelate, Bishop O. L. Meadows, as guest speaker; and,

WHEREAS, Pastor Joe Mac Bankhead was born to Leo Bankhead and Ella Mae Bryant on December 25, 1960. He has one brother and one sister, and was raised by his grandmother, Ruby Lee Bankhead; and,

WHEREAS, at age 15, he was filled with the Holy Ghost, and soon accepted his call into the ministry. He was a very dedicated young man, and grew and matured in the work of the Lord. II Thessalonians 1:11-12 says, "Wherefore we pray always for you, that our God count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power. That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in Him, according to the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ"; and,

WHEREAS, First Lady Diane Gunter Bankhead was born in May of 1959 to Mother, Mattie Gunter. She received the Holy Ghost at a very early age and remained faithful to God and His Work; and,

WHEREAS, while the Lord knew Pastor Bankhead needed a saved wife, He also knew First Lady Bankhead needed a saved husband. On September 24, 1982, they were joined together in matrimony. They two became as one and remained faithful to their local church, Sulligent Church of God In Christ, under the leadership of Elder R. W. McDaniel, until the Lord lead Pastor Bankhead to go out and become the shepherd of his own flock. A few years after they married, Pastor Bankhead decided to heed the call of God to come off his job and go full time into the ministry. When he told his young wife what God was leading him to do, she immediately agreed and decided to leave her job also. At that time, they both truly became one and started traveling all over ministering to God's people, which they continue to do to this day; and,

WHEREAS, in September of 1992, the Lord lead Superintendent W. R. Hughes to resign from the Friendly Temple Church of God In Christ and recommend Pastor Bankhead to take the leadership of the church. Pastor Bankhead came to Russellville with a determination to do what God had sent him there to do. Since these two God-sent people, have been there, many souls have been saved, renewed and delivered. Some of these include former drug dealers and users, alcoholics, fornicators, adulterers, demon possessed, and many others delivered

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through their ministry. A few years ago, Pastor Bankhead had to face the tragedy of the church being destroyed by fire. Little did the devil know this would not discourage them, but only fueled their determination even more. With the help of the deacons and members, the church was rebuilt even better than before. This included two offices, a pastor's office, baptismal, pulpit, choir loft, balcony, men and women restrooms, kitchen, dining room, and a handicap ramp; and,

WHEREAS, Pastor Bankhead has a vision of extending the church to include a larger sanctuary and classrooms for the many young people and children who have joined the congregation. Truly God is not finished with them yet, and there is still a great work to be done; and,

WHEREAS, Pastor and First Lady Bankhead are truly great examples for the members to follow. They are spiritual leaders who minister to both the spiritual and natural man.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we wish Pastor and First Lady Dr. and Sister Joe Mac Bankhead every good wish on the occasion of their 22nd Anniversary as Pastor and First Lady of the Friendly Temple Church of God in Christ in Russellville, Alabama. May the best be yours in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 24th day of July, 2014.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 24th day of July, 2014.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama